

DEHOOKING DEVICE WITH SLIDABLE BITE SLEEVE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to dehooking devices, specifically a dehooking device with a slidable mouth bite sleeve for safely removing a hook from a fish or turtle's mouth while being able to maintain the mouth in a somewhat open position.

When a person catches a fish or some other sea creature and reels it in, the fish or creature instinctively closes its mouth around the hook and line. In addition, when it is being handled by a person, the fish or creature resists opening its mouth as a defense mechanism. Thus, a person must proceed with caution so as not to injure himself or herself when removing a fish hook from a fish or other sea creature. For instance, the person could puncture his or her finger on the hook itself, get a cut from the projections on the creature or be bitten by the creature, all from trying to remove a hook and line from the creature's mouth.

Additionally, if the hook is not removed from the creature in a certain manner, the fisherperson could actually puncture the creature's inside intestinal or airbag walls with the hook, thus degrading the quality of meat. Even if the fisherperson decided not to keep his or her catch, the fish's scales and/or fins may be damaged by handling the fish with his or her hands to such an extent that the fish or creature will not survive once returned to the water.

Thus, the need exists for a fish dehooking device so that a person can safely remove a hook without fear of injuring himself or the sea creature caught.

Listed below for consideration is known related prior art:

	<u>Patent No.</u> (U.S. unless otherwise specified)	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
5	4,914,853	Swindle	04-10-1990
	Des. 382,628	Swindle	08-19-1997
	6,397,513 B1	Reed	06-04-2002
	5,307,586	Palmer	05-03-1994
	2,947,106	Lewan	08-02-1960
	4,590,702	Chestnutt	05-27-1986
10	DE3204976A1	Scholtz <i>et al.</i>	12-02-1982
	2,749,653	Patrowsky <i>et al.</i>	06-12-1956
	2,781,599	Steiner	02-19-1957
	3,419,924	Archibald	01-07-1969
	Des. 227,759	Enagureto	07-17-1973
15	3,713,243	Tetzner	01-30-1973

Although the above patents disclose various fish hook removal devices, none disclose a slidable bite sleeve as is disclosed in the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a dehooking device
20 with slidable bite sleeve that permits a person to remove a hook from the caught creature's mouth while being able to maintain the mouth in a somewhat open position without touching the hook or creature.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a dehooking device with
slidable bite sleeve that shields the hook while the hook is being removed so it does
25 not damage or cut the creature's mouth.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a dehooking device with slidable bite sleeve that is durable.

This invention fulfills these and other objects by providing a dehooking device with slidable bite sleeve having a rod held by a T-shaped handle. The rod is bent slightly at the outer end and has a curve for detaching hooks from the mouth of a sea creature, particularly a fish or turtle. The bite sleeve is a cylindrical pipe that moves
5 along the rod from the handle to the hook removal end.

To use the device, the user must keep the bite sleeve pulled up along the rod when engaging the leader of the fishing line to allow for proper leader and hook engagement. While maintaining the leader tension, the user places the looped hook removal end on the leader at a 90 degree angle with the open end of the looped hook
10 removal end facing upwards. The user then pulls the handle towards himself or herself using one hand while maintaining a grip on the bite sleeve with the other hand until the open end of the looped hook removal end engages the leader. The user then turns the handle 1/4 turn clockwise so the leader is now in the center of the looped hook removal end. The user then releases the bite sleeve, allowing it to
15 fall to the bottom of the device. Following the leader, the user inserts the looped hook removal end and bite sleeve into as far into the mouth of the animal as it will allow before biting down. Once the animal bites down, the rod still maintains a sliding distance of about six inches in or out of the animal. The user then continues to follow the leader down to the shank of the hook. After the looped hook removal
20 end is seated on the shank of the ingested hook, the user gives a sharp jab downward on the handle. The hook is removed and the point of the hook will rotate and stop on the offset angle of the rod, protecting the point and preventing re-engagement of the hook on the animal. After the hook is finally dislodged, the user pulls the rod out of the animal until it is flush against the bite sleeve. The bite sleeve will cover
25 the hook and further prevent re-engagement. The user simply waits for the animal,

be it fish, turtle or some other aquatic creature, to open its mouth and remove the entire device and hook.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading
5 of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

This invention is described by appended claims in relation to description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are
10 explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a side view of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a front view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 3 is a downward cut away view along lines 3-3 of the embodiment of **FIG. 2**; and

15 **FIG. 4** is a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** in use.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

- 20
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. rod | 6. angled portion |
| 2. looped hook removal end | 7. hook |
| 3. handle | 8. fishing line |
| 4. bite sleeve | 9. fish |
| 5. rounded end | |

Referring to **FIG. 1**, the dehooking device with slidable bite sleeve has a rod 1, preferably made of steel, that is attached to a handle 3 at a first end and has a looped hook removal end 2 at a second end. The rod 1 is surrounded by a cylindrical bite sleeve 4, preferably made of plastic. The looped hook removal end 2 of the rod 1 has a rounded end 5 so as not to injure the insides of the fish or sea creature.

With reference to **FIG. 2**, a front view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. The bite sleeve 4 is designed so as to rest on the looped portion 2 of the rod 1 when not in use.

In **FIG. 3**, a downward cut away view along the lines 3-3 of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. The rod 1 has an angled portion 6 so as to allow a better hook-grasping position.

Finally, in **FIG. 4**, a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** in use is shown. To remove a hook 7 from the mouth of a fish 9, the user keeps the bite sleeve 4 pulled up along the rod 1 when engaging the leader of the fishing line 8 to allow for proper leader and hook engagement. While maintaining the leader tension, the user places the looped hook removal end 2 on the leader at a 90 degree angle with the open end of the looped hook removal end 2 facing upwards. The user then pulls the handle 3 towards himself or herself using one hand while maintaining a grip on the bite sleeve 4 with the other hand until the open end of the looped hook removal end 2 engages the leader. The user then turns the handle 3 1/4 turn clockwise so the leader is now in the center of the looped hook removal end 2. The user then releases the bite sleeve 4, allowing it to fall to the bottom of the device. Following the leader, the user inserts the looped hook removal end 2 and bite sleeve 4 into as far into the mouth of the animal as it will allow before biting down. Once

the animal bites down, the rod 1 still maintains a sliding distance of about six inches in or out of the animal. The user then continues to follow the leader down to the shank of the hook 7. After the looped hook removal end 2 is seated on the shank of the ingested hook 7, the user gives a sharp jab downward on the handle 3. The hook 7 is removed and the point of the hook 7 will rotate and stop on the offset angled portion 6 of the rod 1, protecting the point and preventing re-engagement of the hook 7. After the hook 7 is finally dislodged, the user pulls the handle 3 so the rod 1 is out of the animal until it is flush against the bite sleeve 4. The bite sleeve 4 will cover the hook 7 and further prevent re-engagement on the animal. The user simply waits for the fish 7 to open its mouth and remove the entire device and hook 7.

A new and useful dehooking device with slidable bite sleeve having been described, all such foreseeable modifications, adaptations, substitutions of equivalents, mathematical possibilities of combinations of parts, pluralities of parts, applications and forms thereof as described by the following claims and not precluded by prior art are included in this invention.